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Dated: January 14, 2003

Signature:

*Michael D. Braunstein*  
(Michael D. Braunstein)

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JAN 24 2003

TC 1700

Docket No.: EGYPT 3.0-020  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Frank Bellon

Application No.: 10/072,327

Filed: February 6, 2002

For: MASK FOR DEPOSITING AND  
DISTRIBUTING REAGENTS ON AN  
ANALYTICAL SUPPORT

Group Art Unit: 1734

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the references listed on the enclosed form be made of record and considered with respect to the captioned U.S. patent application. A copy of each reference is enclosed. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

The enclosed references were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the search report has also been included.

U.S. Patents 5,464,521 and 5,403,456 are listed in the Foreign Search Report as equivalents of EP 0 526 271.

Also cited in the Foreign Search Report is EP 0 666 476. Since the search report indicates no English language equivalent of this document, the following is a concise explanation of that reference in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

EP patent application 0 666 476 relates to a support for carrying out electrophoresis for an immunofixation process, which support comprises several lanes for electrophoresis, wherein the lanes are characterized by specific dimensions, especially a determined breadth and inter-lane distance. In addition, the EP patent application discloses a

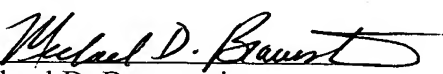
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*8*  
*2/20/03*

mask suitable to be used with the support, wherein the mask is characterized by the fact that it comprises openings for deposition of reagents, which have dimensions identical to those of the lanes and inter-lanes of the support. The EP application does not provide additional features to characterize the mask.

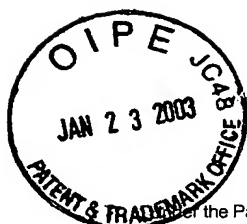
In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: January 14, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/072,327
				Filing Date	February 6, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Frank Bellon
				Art Unit	1734
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	EGYP 3.0-020

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	5,238,651	08-24-1993	Chuba	
	AB	5,137,614	08-11-1992	Golias	
	AC	5,464,521	11-07-1995	Bellon	
	AD	5,403,456	04-04-1995	Bellon	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	WO 97/30347 ✓	08-21-1997			
	BB	EP 0 666 476 ✓	08-09-1995			
	BC	EP 1 048 949 ✓	11-02-2000			
	BD	EP 526 271 A1 ✓	02-03-1993			
	BE	GB 2 261 508 ✓	05-19-1993			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<b>OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.